

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1113

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1343

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PARM PERP PGOV PINT AU GW HU

SUBJECT: BRANDT VISIT

REF: BUDAPEST 1249

1. SUMMARY: IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER CONCLUSION OF
VISIT SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT TO HUNGARY FOR DISCUS-
SIONS WITH HSWP FIRST SECRETARY KADAR, TWO LEADERS
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR DETENTE, FOR BROAD EFFORTS TO STEM
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ARMAMENTS RACE, IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE FINAL ACT AND CON-
TINUED CONTACTS BETWEEN SPD AND HSWP. HSWP EDITORIALISTS
GAVE EXTENSIVE CREDIT TO SPD AND BRANDT FOR DEVELOP-
MENT OF OST-POLITIK AND NOTED FULL REGULARIZATION OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND HUNGARY. HUNGARIANS APPEAR
HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BRANDT AND
KADAR AND READY TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE GOOD RELATIONS

WITH FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF TOURING AND REST IN THE HUNGARIAN COUNTRYSIDE, WILLY BRANDT RETURNED TO BUDAPEST MAR 30, WHERE JANOS KADAR CALLED UPON HIM FOR THE SECOND TWO-HOUR MEETING IN TEN DAYS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. BRANDT LEFT HUNGARY MAR 30 ALONG WITH SPD OFFICIALS HORST EHMKE, WOLFGANG ROTH, HANS-EBERHART DINGELS, MINISTER OF STATE KLAUS VON DOHNANYI, AND BRANDT'S CHIEF OF CABINET, MICHAEL BERTRAM.

3. IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER VISIT, IT WAS NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON HUNGARIAN SIDE WERE CARRIED OUT BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) SECRETARY MIKLOS OVARI, CC FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HEAD JANOS BEREZ, HIS DEPUTY, GYULA HORN, AND CC STAFFER LAJOS JAHODA. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT SPD AND HSWP LEADERS HAD THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS. THEY AGREED THAT POLICY OF PEACE AND DETENTE MUST BE CONTINUED AND WIDE-RANGING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ARE NEEDED TO CURB ARMAMENTS RACE. THEY ALSO AGREED ON SUPPORTING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT HELSINKI FINAL ACT, ON IMPORTANCE OF FRUITFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND FRG, AND ON CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN SPD AND HSWP.

4. NEPSZABADSAG EDITORIAL PUBLISHED UNDER TEXT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIQUE ON MAR 31, FIRST SAID THAT VISIT OF BRANDT BELONGED TO SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES WHICH SPD LEADERS INITIATED A DECADE AGO WITH STATE AND PARTY LEADERS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT WHILE FRG REMAINS A MEMBER OF NATO AND MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER OF U.S., IT HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE EUROPEAN REALITIES ACKNOWLEDGING GDR SOVEREIGNTY AND FRONTIERS ESTABLISHED IN 1945. EDITORIAL GAVE LARGE CREDIT FOR THIS TO PRESENT GERMAN GOVERNING COALITION AND IN PARTICULAR TO WILLY BRANDT FOR DEFENDING CURRENT GERMAN POLICY AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF THE RIGHT-WING OPPOSITION. EDITORIAL THEN TICKED OFF ACHIEVEMENTS OF "NEW EASTERN POLICY" INCLUDING VARIOUS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BY FRG WITH SOCIALIST STATES. THE FRG-GDR BASIC AGREEMENT, THE QUADRIPARTITE BERLIN AGREEMENT AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT WHICH IT CHARACTERIZED AS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL. NEPSZABADSAG NEXT NOTED THAT GDR AND FRG SUCCEEDED IN FULLY REGULARIZING THEIR RELATIONS WHICH WAS REFLECTED BY FIRST SECRETARY KADAR'S VISIT TO WEST GERMANY LAST YEAR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1343

5. NEPSZABADSAG RECOGNIZED TWO PARTIES IDEOLOGICAL
DIFFERENCES BUT SAID BOTH RECOGNIZE THEIR RESPONSIB-
ILITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE. PAPER SAID THAT TALKS
BETWEEN SPD CHAIRMAN AND FIRST SECRETARY AS WELL AS
OFFICIALS IN THEIR ENTOURAGE USEFULLY INFLUENCED
THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND
WEST GERMANY. EDITORIAL TEST AFFIRMED THAT IT WAS
AGREED IN MEETINGS THAT THE DEEPENING OF THE ARMS
RACE MUST BE PREVENTED. FINALLY, HE CONCLUDED BY
NOTING WILLY BRANDT AND JANOS KADAR HAVE AGREED
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THAT IN LIGHT OF GOOD EXPERIENCE DURING THIS VISIT, TWO

PARTIES SHOULD NURTURE THEIR RELATIONS IN FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: HUNGARIAN SIDE SEEMS VERY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF BRANDT VISIT. FROM ITS POINT OF VIEW, THEY UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL THAT THE HSWP TAKES ON SOMEWHAT GREATER RESPECTABILITY BY VIRTUE OF ITS CONTACTS WITH SPD. AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY OBSERVES THAT HSWP DIALOGUE WITH SPD IS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP BY HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP IN EXPANDING ITS RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES AND LEADERS AS BEGUN BY KADAR IN 1976-77 WITH HIS VISITS TO VIENNA, ROME AND BONN. IN ACKNOWLEDGING CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY OF SPD-LED COALITION AND FULL NORMALIZATION OF GDR-FRG RELATIONS, DESPITE ADMITTED IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND MEMBERSHIPS IN OPPOSING ALLIANCES, HUNGARIANS HAVE PUT STATUS OF WEST GERMAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT, AND ARE PROBABLY SIGNALING A DESIRE TO FURTHER NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RELATIONS.

7. ON SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS, IT IS NOTICEABLE THAT BRANDT WAS UNABLE TO GAIN ANY ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY KADAR THAT HUNGARY HAD A ROLE TO PLAY IN RESOLUTION OF NORTH-SOUTH CONTROVERSIES AND IN CHANNELING IF GREATER ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S. EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT FINAL COMMUNIQUE ON KADAR-BRANDT TALKS MADE NO REFERENCE TO NEUTRON BOMB -- CONFINING ITSELF TO A GENERAL DESIRE TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO STEM ARMS RACE -- ALTHOUGH IN FACT BRANDT HAD ADDRESSED BOMB ISSUE PUBLICLY WHILE IN BUDAPEST (SEE REFTTEL). NEV-

ERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT HUNGARIANS FEEL CHAIRMAN BRANDT MORE APPROACHABLE ON ARMS QUESTIONS
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THAN SOME OTHER WESTERN LEADERS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN DISCUSSING AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY'S CURRENT VISIT TO BERLIN, GOVERNMENT PAPER CONTRASTS KREISKY'S REFUSAL TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB IN HIS RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM BREZHNEV WITH REMARKS BY BRANDT, STATING CHANCELLOR'S STAND OF INCONSPICUOUS NEUTRALITY IS ESPECIALLY CONSPICUOUS WHEN CONFRONTED WITH STATEMENTS BY WILLY BRANDT.
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